

SS InTouch – February

A school counselor's brief from the Indiana Department of Education

- It's **National School Counseling Week February 4-8th, 2008!** Thanks for ALL you do to support ALL of our students in Indiana. We're constantly impressed.

In support of Indiana school counselors, here's what we've done:

- **Proclamation** - ISCA worked with Governor Mitch Daniels in issuing a statewide proclamation for Indiana School Counseling Week! Nationally, ASCA announces that both the House and Senate passed a National School Counseling Week Resolution – marking the FIRST time both houses of Congress have passed the resolutions in advance of National School Counseling Week.
- **Survey Results** - IDOE is releasing the results of the 2007 Survey of Indiana School Counselors, which focuses on advocating for more school counselors, to ALL media outlets around the state. Read the survey results or the press release at <http://www.doe.state.in.us/sservices/counseling/survey.html>
- **Videos of Indiana Schools** - More than a dozen Indiana schools allowed us to videotape students, school counselors, parents and principals talking about Indiana school counselors. Watch the videos at <http://www.doe.state.in.us/sservices/counseling/survey.html>,
- **Media Contacts** - More than 50 Indiana school counselors agreed to be Media Contacts for radio, television and newspaper reporters who want to hear the good things that Indiana school counselors do (thank you!),
- **Purdue's SC Video** - Purdue University's Counseling Department created a fantastic Public Service Announcement (PSA) about School Counseling which you can watch at <http://www.doe.state.in.us/sservices/counseling/survey.html>

Reply to this e-mail and share with us how your school is celebrating or promoting School Counseling Week.

- **The 2008 Legislative Session** – Many education-related bills have been introduced and eliminated from the Indiana General Assembly's docket. Among the bills that are reportedly still alive are:
 - SB 0111 – Makes a slight wording change to the graduation rate formula
 - HB 1234 – Would allow law enforcement of attendance issues

Proposed bills that may be dead or will likely be changed include:

- HB 1246 – Which would require public 4-year colleges to waive tuition for the first five dual credit courses a student completes AND would change the Career Plan to a Graduation Plan that would begin in 6th grade
- HB 1308 – Supports the ACT
- HB 1366 – Which would have granted students with a disability an IEP Diploma.

You can read a short summary of each proposed bill at

<http://www.in.gov/apps/isa/session/billwatch/billinfo> by clicking on "Complete Information for All Bills."

- **Elementary School Counselor Updates**
 - If you're looking to add an elementary school counselor, be sure to complete the 2008 application for the Indiana Elementary School Counseling Grant which provides up to \$15,000 over each of two years for hiring elementary school counselors in Indiana. The application is due March 14th and can be downloaded at: http://www.doe.state.in.us/sservices/counseling/docs/grant_application.doc
- **Middle School Counselor Updates**

- Indiana rules require middle schools to offer at least five hours of instructional time in grades 1 through 6 and six hours of instructional time in grades 7 through 12. More details about the middle level curriculum and time requirements are available on the Indiana General Assembly website by going to http://www.in.gov/legislative/iac/iac_title?iact=511 – and clicking on Article 6.1 – then scrolling down to page 15 to where it says “511 IAC 6.1-5-3.5 Middle Level Curriculum.”

- **High School Counselor Updates**

- In a decision apparently made in the last week, next year's 9th grade students will NOT have to take the ISTEP+ next fall. We're waiting on the release of a Q & A document about this and other questions about the new statewide assessment and GQE which should be available soon.
- A memo explaining AP details for May 2008 will be sent to high school counselors and AP coordinators next week. This spring, state funding will cover the cost of AP science and math exams for students in grades 11 and 12 who are completing the corresponding AP science and math courses. Federal funding will continue to cover the cost of AP exams for students who qualify for free and reduced lunch.
- Watch for another memo coming soon announcing the addition of college courses from Indiana's independent/private colleges to the Core Transfer Library.
- Diploma seal ordering continues online through February 15th online at <http://mustang.doe.state.in.us/dg/core40/diplomadata.cfm> Remember the Core 40 with Technical Honors Diploma is only an option for current seniors if your school decides to offer it.

If your high school has decided not to offer the Core 40 with Technical Honors Diploma to students in 10th grade and subsequent classes – remember that there may be financial aid opportunities that your students lose. Students from the current sophomore class who qualify financially and earn a Core 40 with Technical Honors Diploma can receive 100% of the Frank O'Bannon Grant versus 90% if they just earn the Core 40 diploma. That difference could amount to thousands of dollars of difference each year.

- A Spanish version of the Graduation Requirements for current juniors and seniors (classes of 2008 and 2009) is now available online at the bottom of this webpage: http://www.doe.in.gov/core40/diploma_requirements.html Thanks to Esther Vargas-Davis at Translations for Success at IU's P-16 Center for doing this for us.
- Thanks to HS counselor efforts, the use of e-Transcripts increased by more than 300 percent this fall! It's calculated that 80% of all eligible high school seniors are now using e-Transcripts in almost 300 Indiana high schools. Amazing. Indiana HS Counselor Don Cronk was highlighted in the South Bend Tribune talking about the benefits of using e-Transcripts.

If you have a positive comment about e-Transcripts that you can send to us – we'll make sure it gets to ISM Loans to help continue their funding of this statewide initiative.

- SSACI says CHIPS and Hoosier Scholar reporting can now be completed for upcoming 2008 graduates. Directors of Guidance should have received a packet of information sent out in early January that provides introductory guidance for CHIPS and Hoosier Scholar reporting including instructions/checklist, forms, and guidance for frequently asked questions.

Counselors will now enter into the CHIPS database students who are now in their 7th semester and on track to graduate with both Core 40 diploma and a cumulative Grade

Point Average (GPA) of at least a 2.0 on a 4.0 scale, or an Academic Honors Diploma with a GPA of at least a 3.0 on a 4.0 scale. The INITIAL reporting deadline is Friday, March 23, 2008.

- Learn More Indiana sends out lots of financial aid information to current seniors who completed the 11th grade Guidance Survey last year. To see what financial aid information Learn More sends to seniors, go to <http://www.learnmoreindiana.org/counselors/highschool/counseling/Pages/2008FinancialAidMailing.aspx>
- High schools can download 81 newly updated Career Pathways for Indiana 16 Career Clusters at <http://doe.state.in.us/octe/facs/CrrClstrPathways.html> Each pathway is an Excel file that schools and students can modify to develop their own 4-year Course Plans.

Resources

- ISCA will soon begin registration at <http://isca-in.org/index.html> for its Spring School Counselor Workshops in five regions around the state in March. The cost is \$15 for ISCA members and \$25 for non-members. Dates and locations for ISCA Spring Regional Workshops are:
 - March 4th - Ivy Tech, Kokomo
 - March 19th - Ball State University, Muncie
 - March 7th - Indiana State University, Terre Haute
 - April 2nd (tentative) - Indiana University Southeast, New Albany
 - March 13th - Ivy Tech NMC, Indianapolis
- For more information contact Leslie at: lbruggeman@muncie.k12.in.us. Both CRU's and PGP's will be available for all participants.
- IACAC's Spring Membership Meeting & Drive-In Workshops will be at Butler University on Wednesday, April 16th from 9:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Watch for registration information at www.iacac.net
- The new GQE will be the focus of the keynote speaker at the Indiana ACT Conference at the Sheraton Hotel in Indianapolis on March 3rd. Registration is \$65 at <http://www.act.org/cgi-bin/cal/cal.pl?CODE=4566> Dr. Michele Walker will be the featured keynote speaker at the one day conference which also features sessions on Facebook and MySpace, WorkKeys, Dual Credits, Quality Core and more.
- Round 2 of ISCA's School Counselor Mentor Training will be held on February 22nd and May 2nd 2008. The deadline to receive applications will be February 15th 2008. Visit <http://isca-in.org/mentor.htm> for a description of ISCA's mentor training and to download an application form. Please note that space is limited to 30 participants.
- The Indiana State Department of Health and Indiana Department of Education are proud to announce the first annual Risky Business: Hoosier Teens Talk Health Youth Summit. This Summit is designed for Indiana youth aged 14-19 and its mission is: To educate high school-aged Hoosiers on the impact of decisions affecting their quality of life and encourage them to positively influence the health of those around them. The summit will be held on March 13th, 2008 at the Indiana Convention Center. For more information go to: http://www.drugs.indiana.edu/misc-calendar_detail.aspx?eventID=92

- Applications are now being accepted for Hoosier Boys' State, June 14th to June 21st, 2008, to be held on the campus of Indiana State University in Terre Haute, Indiana. The program for junior males is an intensive, hands-on program focusing on government and politics. Applications are online at <http://www.hoosierboysstate.org>
- Outward Bound has partnered with Judi's House to offer Heroic Journey, a 7-day wilderness adventure for grieving teens <http://www.outwardboundwilderness.org/judishouse.html>. Judi's House was founded by Brian Griesse, former Denver Broncos and current Chicago Bears quarterback, to help kids and their families who are grieving from the death of a loved one.
- The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) is offering a new \$3,000 per semester college scholarship to Indiana students planning to study Civil Engineering. Details of the new scholarship are at <http://www.in.gov/indot/7329.htm>
- The Indiana Conservation Officers is offering four \$500 scholarships for students planning on majoring in Conservation and Law Enforcement in college. Details are available online at <http://www.icoo.com/scholarship.cfm>

Sign up for SS InTouch at <http://listserv.doe.in.gov/mailman/listinfo/intouch>

Find archived editions of SS InTouch at www.doe.in.gov/schoolcounseling under "Resources"

Direct questions or comments to Amanda Snobarger at asnobarg@doe.in.gov – 317-232-9136 or Matt Fleck – 317.232.9172 – mfleck@doe.in.gov